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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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SS-15 USIA-15 /071 W
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R 080925Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5444
INFO AMCONSUL MUNICH

UNCLAS WARSAW 8756

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT PFOR PL
SUBJ: POLISH PRESS TREATMENT OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE FIFTH PLENUM

REF: WARSAW 8658

1. SUMMARY. THREE ARTICLES ASSESSING THE FIFTH PLENUM OF THE PZPR CENTRAL COMMITTEE, "WE ARE ALL RESPONSIBLE FOR POLAND" BY BARBARA DROZDZ, AND "GOALS, CONDITIONS, MEANS" BY HENRYK CHADZYNSKI IN ZYCIE WARSZAWY (DECEMBER 4-5), AND "CONTINUATION OF THE STRATEGY" BY RYSZARD DRECKI IN TRYBUNA LUDU (DECEMBER 6), ALL CONTAIN A POSITIVE ASSESSMENT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS, ADMISSION OF DIFFICULTIES, PRESENTATION OF THE "ECONOMIC MANEUVER" AS PART OF A CONTINUOUS STRATEGY AND EMPHASIS ON OPEN DIALOGUE AND COMMON EFFORT. END SUMMARY.

2. A POSITIVE ASSESSMENT OF PAST ACCOMPLISHMENTS, COMBINED WITH AN ADMISSION OF PRESENT DIFFICULTIES, HAS BEEN A COMMON POLISH PRESS FORMAT IN THE MONTHS FOLLOWING THE JUNE DISTURBANCES. COMMENTARY ON THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM FIRST FOCUSSES ON POLISH PROGRESS SINCE 1970. DRECKI SAYS, "NEVER BEFORE IN THE HISTORY OF OUR PEOPLE HAS SUCH A SHORT PERIOD BROUGHT SUCH GREAT PROGRESS, SUCH GREAT CHANGES, VISIBLE TO THE NAKED EYE IN EVERY FIELD, IN EVERY CORNER OF POLAND." PROBLEMS ARE ALSO GRAPHICALLY DEPICTED. DROZDZ SAYS THAT THE "PANORAMA OF THE ENTIRE DECADE" CANNOT BE ADEQUATELY ASSESSED "FROM A PLACE IN A MEAT LINE OR FROM A PLATE ON WHICH THERE IS NO PORK CUTLET." SHE ADMITS THAT "INNUMERABLE EVERYDAY TRIBULATIONS PROVOKE AND TORMENT US",
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BUT GOES ON TO ASSERT THAT, "AS WE LISTENED TO EDWARD GIEREK'S

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WORDS ON WEDNESDAY EVENING, OVERWHELMING DOUBTS WERE TRANSFORMED INTO CONSTRUCTIVE REFLECTION."

3. ONCE THE PROBLEMS ARE PRESENTED, THE CAUSES ARE OUTLINED. ACCORDING TO CHADZYNSKI, THEY ARE THE NATURAL RESULT OF RAPID EXPANSION, EXACERBATED BY BAD WEATHER AND RECESSION IN THE WEST. CHADZYNSKI ADDS THAT INEFFICIENT ADMINISTRATION BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES, SUCH AS THEIR TENDENCY TO OVER-INVEST, HAS ALSO DISTURBED THE EQUILIBRIUM OF THE PLAN. DRECKI ADDS THAT SALARIES WERE SOMETIMES RAISED WHEN PRODUCTIVITY WAS NOT. DROZDZ ALLUDES TO POLAND'S "OPPONENTS" WHO "SOW DOUBES" IN ORDER TO ELIMINATE POLAND FROM ITS "RACE FOR MODERNITY." THE PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF THE ARTICLES IS TO ASSURE THE READER THAT A CHANGE IN THE STRATEGY OF THE PLAN IS NOT A SIGN OF PARTY FALLIBILITY. THE "ECONOMIC MANEUVER" IS SEEN AS "COMPLETELY IN ACCORD WITH THE NEEDS OF SOCIETY" AND IS CHARACTERIZED BY "THE MOST IMPORTANT POINT: CONTINUITY OF THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC POLICY DEVELOPED DURING THE LAST SIX YEARS."

4. THE TASKS AHEAD CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED ONLY THROUGH COMMON EFFORT AND UNDERSTANDING, ACCORDING TO THE WRITERS. DRECKI CALLS FOR A PARTY-LED DIALOGUE CHARACTERIZED BY "THE ABILITY TO CONCEPTUALIZE IN TERMS OF THE WHOLE COUNTRY." DROZDZ SAYS THAT "ONLY IN A SOCIALIST SYSTEM AND SOCIETY IS IT AT ALL POSSIBLE FOR POLICY DIRECTION TO BE UNDERTAKEN IN SUCH A WIDE FORUM, WHICH, AFTER ALL, ENCOMPASSES ALL OF SOCIETY." ALL THREE ARTICLES SUGGEST THAT POLAND FACES DIFFICULT TASKS AHEAD. DROZDZ HAS THE MOST COLORFUL SUMMATION: "A LIFE STREWN WITH ROSES APPEARS ONLY IN BAD NOVELS AND THE ALBUMS OF SENTIMENTAL LADIES. IN THE LIVES OF MATURE PEOPLE AND SOCIETIES, SUCCESS COMES FROM STRENUOUS AND PERSISTENT EFFORT."
DAVIES

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